

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 01537 01 OF 02 142031Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 DODE-00
DOE-15 H-02 INT-05 L-03 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05
ICA-20 OES-09 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12
/145 W

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R 141000Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3714
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 DUESSELDORF 1537

MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS; FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ELAB, EMIN, ENRG, GW BE
SUBJ: CONVENTION OF MINE AND ENERGY WORKERS UNION ON FUTURE
OF GERMAN COAL MINING

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE GERMAN MINE
AND ENERGY WORKERS UNION (IGBE) ON SEPTEMBER 1 WAS CHIEFLY
CONCERNED WITH THE FUTURE OF GERMAN COAL MINING. THE
SUBJECT WAS TREATED BY FEDERAL RESEARCH MINISTER HAUFF
WHO PREDICTED GOOD PROSPECTS FOR COAL AS A SOURCE OF
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PAGE 02 DUSSEL 01537 01 OF 02 142031Z

ENERGY IN THE MID-EIGHTIES UNTIL WHICH TIME THE MINING
INDUSTRY MUST BE SUPPORTED. HE FOUND THE OTHER MEMBER
COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC) AND THE
NON-COAL LAENDER OF THE FRG SADLY LACKING IN
PROVIDENCE FOR THEIR FUTURE, PARTICULARLY IN THE

CONSTRUCTION OF COAL-FUELLED POWER PLANTS. UNION

PRESIDENT ADOLF SCHMIDT DEPLORED THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMPLAINT OF THE EMPLOYERS AGAINST CODETERMINATION AND PREDICTED DIRE CONSEQUENCES TO SOCIAL PEACE SHOULD THE COMPLAINT BE UPHELD BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT. FINALLY THE CONVENTION FILLED VACANCIES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE GERMAN MINE AND ENERGY WORKERS UNION (IGBE) ATTENDED BY 299 DELEGATES WAS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1978 IN SAARBRUECKEN UNDER THE MOTTO: GERMAN COAL MINING - A PILLAR IN SECURE ENERGY SUPPLY FOR THE FUTURE.

3. THE SUBJECT WAS TREATED BY VOLKER HAUFF, FEDERAL MINISTER OF RESEARCH. HE NOTED THAT SINCE THE END OF THE FIFTIES STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE MINING INDUSTRY HAD ELIMINATED 400,000 JOBS; AT THE SAME TIME ANNUAL COAL PRODUCTION IN THE FRG HAD DROPPED FROM 151 MILLION TONS TO 85 MILLION TONS DESPITE THE FACT THAT COAL WAS THE ONLY WORTHWHILE DOMESTIC SOURCE OF ENERGY.

4. THE MINISTER PREDICTED THAT BY THE MID-EIGHTIES PROSPECTS FOR COAL WOULD BRIGHTEN CONSIDERABLY AND BOTTLE-NECKS IN ENERGY SUPPLY COULD BE EXPECTED UNLESS NEW POWER PLANTS WERE CONSTRUCTED. TWO-THIRDS OF EXISTING COAL FUEL POWER PLANTS WERE OLDER THAN 11 YEARS
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 DUSSEL 01537 01 OF 02 142031Z

AND 60 PERCENT OF THESE WERE SMALL-SIZED WITH A CAPACITY BELOW 150 MW. IN ORDER TO CONVERT 35 MILLION TONS OF COAL PER YEAR INTO ENERGY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN COAL MINING AND THE ENERGY INDUSTRY, NEW POWER PLANTS WOULD HAVE TO BE ESTABLISHED NOT ONLY IN THE TRADITIONAL COAL AREAS BUT IN THE OTHER LAENDER OF THE FRG AS WELL. ACCORDING TO HAUFF, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS RESOLVED TO PREVENT COAL FROM BEING PUSHED OUT OF THE MARKET IN THE EIGHTIES. SPECIAL CLAUSES IN NEW ECOLOGY LEGISLATION SHALL SECURE THE REPLACEMENT OF OLD POWER PLANTS BY NEW ONES WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF CONVERTING SUFFICIENT COAL INTO ELECTRICITY TO ENABLE THE LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE OF JOBS IN COAL MINING.

5. MINISTER HAUFF NOTED A WORLD-WIDE TREND IN FAVOR OF COAL WHILE THE EC TURNED AWAY FROM COAL. SINCE 1970 EC COAL PRODUCTION DROPPED BY 68 MILLION TONS TO 220 MILLION TONS PER YEAR. HAUFF CONSIDERS A EUROPEAN PRODUCTION OF 250 MILLION TONS NECESSARY. HAUFF SHARPLY ATTACKED THE COAL POLICY OF THE EC AND DEMANDED THAT IN THE LONG RUN COAL MUST BE ASSIGNED A MORE SIGNIFICANT ROLE. UNTIL 1985, THE MINISTER

REPORTED 84 NEW POWER PLANTS WERE TO BE CONSTRUCTED
IN 8 EC COUNTRIES BUT NOT A SINGLE ONE ON A COAL FUEL
BASIS. HAUFF CONSIDERED THIS DEVELOPMENT TO BE
UNACCEPTABLE, BECAUSE COAL POLICY OUGHT TO BE A COMMON
TASK FOR EUROPE TO SECURE ITS FUTURE ENERGY SUPPLIES.

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 DUESSELDORF 1537

MILITARY ADDEES FOR POLADS; FOR USEEC

6. ADOLF SCHMIDT, CHAIRMAN OF THE UNION AND SPD BUNDES-
TAG DEPUTY, CALLED THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMPLAINT OF THE
EMPLOYERS AGAINST CODETERMINATION OF LABOR A GERMAN
TRAGEDY AT THE END OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. A NEGATIVE
VERDICT WOULD DESTROY RESPECT FOR THE HIGHEST GERMAN
COURT SO MUCH THE MORE SINCE CODETERMINATION HAD BEEN
WORKING SUCCESSFULLY FOR 30 YEARS IN THE BASIC
INDUSTRIES AND WAS CHIEFLY INSTRUMENTAL IN COPING WITH
THE STRUCTURAL CHANGES AND DIFFICULTIES IN THESE
INDUSTRIES. SOCIAL PEACE WOULD BE PROFOUNDLY DISTURBED,

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PAGE 02 DUSSEL 01537 02 OF 02 142033Z

SCHMIDT SAID.

7. HANS ALKER, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER OF THE UNION WAS ELECTED TO REPLACE HELMUT GELHORN, WHO HAS RETIRED FOR HEALTH REASONS. WALTER BEER WAS NEWLY ELECTED TO THE BOARD.

8. COMMENT: UNIONS, EMPLOYERS AND POLITICIANS ARE AGREED THAT THE ROSY TIMES FOR COAL OF THE FIFTIES WON'T COME BACK. THERE IS EQUAL AGREEMENT AMONG THESE GROUPS THAT THE INSECURITY OF THE WORLD ENERGY MARKET GIVES SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE TO COAL AS A FREELY ACCESSIBLE SOURCE OF ENERGY, AND THAT COAL MINES AND THE LABOR FORCE TO MINE THE COAL SHOULD BE MAINTAINED. THE UNSOLVED PROBLEM IS HOW TO FINANCE THE MAINTENANCE OF EUROPEAN MINES DURING THE CURRENT PERIOD OF RELATIVELY LOW ENERGY DEMAND AND RELATIVELY HIGH EUROPEAN COAL PRICES.DUX

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ENERGY, COAL, MINING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DUSSEL01537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780374-1061
Format: TEL
From: DUSSELDORF
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780968/aaaacdx.tel
Line Count: 192
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e06bb350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1437763
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVENTION OF MINE AND ENERGY WORKERS UNION ON FUTURE OF GERMAN COAL MINING
TAGS: ELAB, EMIN, ENRG, GE, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e06bb350-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014